




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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ADJOURNMENT

Riverway Drive, Update

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.16 pm): What a great segue for what I want to talk about in North Queensland—my favourite road, Riverway Drive.

Honourable members: No!

Mr HARPER: Yes, I am going to provide an update to the House. As members know, I very proudly delivered stage 1. I thank the minister in the House for \$44 million that has seen around \$50 million worth of private investment into that area, and it is fantastic. With regard to stage 2, we had an election commitment in 2020 and I will get on and deliver that with the support of the Labor government and the minister.

Everyone knows that the main water pipeline that is under Riverway Drive cracked in 2021 and the Townsville City Council is going about replicating that on the other side of the river away from urban infrastructure. It has pushed the project back, but I am very keen to provide an update to the House today because just last Friday I was with the Townsville City Council mayor on the site of the water pipeline duplication. Eight kilometres of the nine-kilometre pipe have been laid by CivilPlus which is supporting over 130 jobs, and it is connecting it from the Ross River Dam down to the Douglas Water Treatment Plant. That will mean that we will be able to get those big yellow trucks on to Riverway Drive once the water pipe is commissioned and start the duplication for this important piece of road infrastructure in Townsville. I know that community cabinet is up there on Sunday and I say this to all of those ministers who will be there: I will give them a free tour of Riverway Drive. Yes, I will take them in my own car if they like. It is a great piece of infrastructure that has supported hundreds and hundreds of jobs and I cannot wait to get on with stage 2.

Those early works will continue until that water pipe is commissioned, but I have been briefed by the local regional director of TMR that a contract has been signed with Ergon. The people of Thuringowa will see Ergon starting to move some of the utility poles out of the way on Riverway Drive stage 2 to get on with construction. That will happen before Christmas and it is an exciting sign that we are delivering that road in Thuringowa. Following that will be more utilities moved with Telstra and I am informed that tenders will be called for the commencement of the Riverway Drive duplication stage 2 before the water pipeline is commissioned. That will remove any delays. We will get on with it because when I make a commitment in Thuringowa—like I have done with police, ambulance stations, school halls, you name it—

An opposition member: Youth crime?

Mr HARPER: I have backed in our police. I will deliver Riverway Drive stage 2 and I will proudly do that for the good people of Thuringowa.